



U.S. IMMIGRATION

PROJECTING IMMIGRATION AS IT AFFECTS
THE SOCIAL SECURITY AREA

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Technical Panel
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Overview



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- Definitions
- Importance of Projections
- Projection Methodology
- Results
- More Information

What is Migration?

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Five types of migration:

- 1) Legal immigration
- 2) Legal emigration
- 3) Other-than-legal (OTL) immigration
- 4) Other-than-legal (OTL) emigration
- 5) Adjustments of status (transfers)

Legal Immigration/Emigration



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□ Legal immigration:

Foreign-born individuals, either new arrivals or adjustments of status, who are granted legal permanent resident (LPR) status.

□ Legal emigration:

LPRs and citizens who leave the Social Security area.



OTL Immigration/Emigration

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□ OTL immigration:

Individuals who enter the Social Security area without LPR status, such as undocumented immigrants, temporary workers, and students.

□ OTL emigration:

Individuals from the OTL population who leave the Social Security area or adjust status to become LPRs.



Adjustments of Status

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- Adjustments of status (transfers):

Individuals who adjust their status (transfer) from the OTL population to become LPRs.

- They are counted in the number of legal immigrants.

- They are counted in the number of OTL emigrants.

Net Immigration

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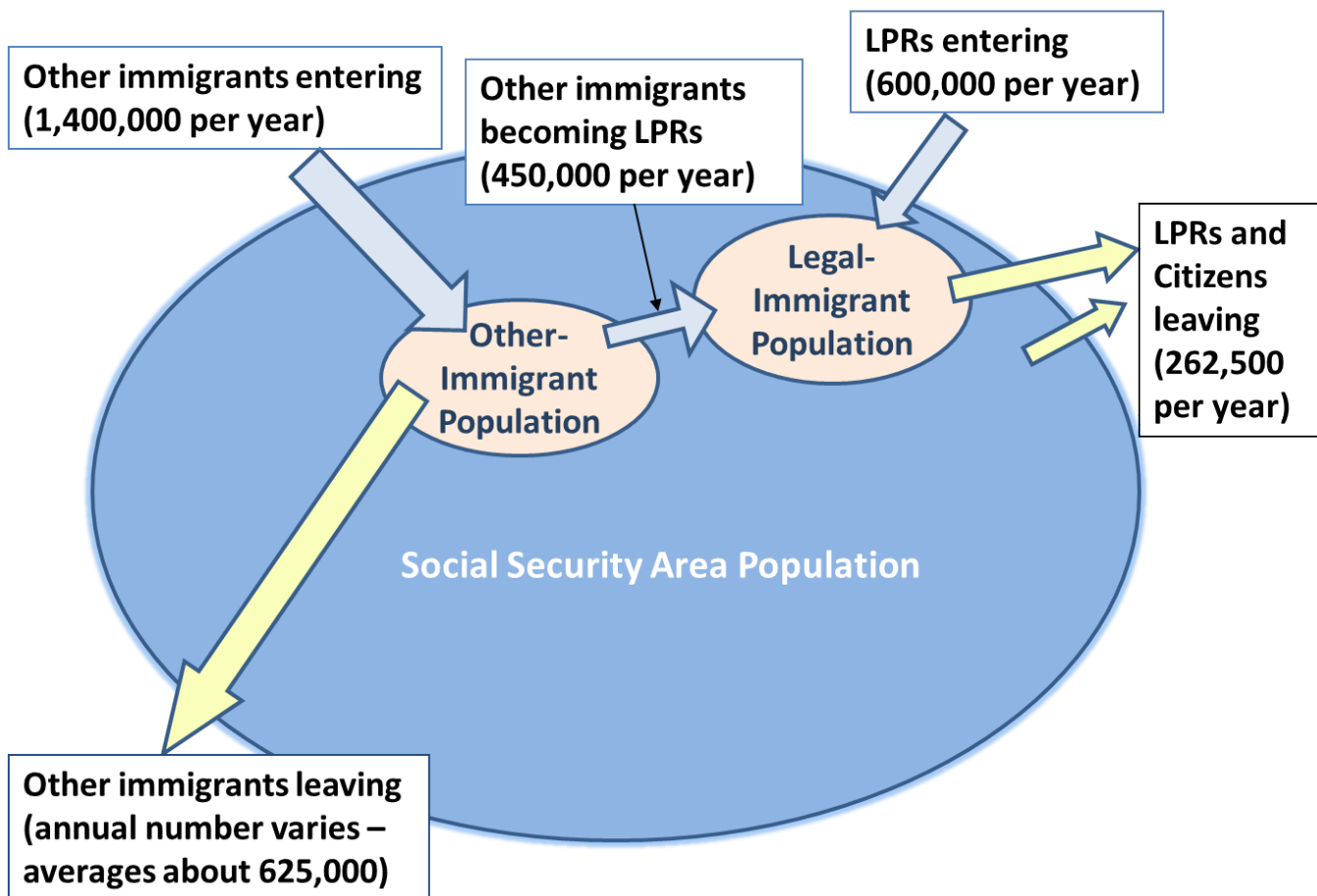
- Net legal immigration =
legal immigration – legal emigration
- Net other (OTL) immigration =
OTL immigration – OTL emigration
- Net (total) immigration =
net legal immigration + net other immigration

Immigration Flows

2014 Trustees Report, Intermediate Assumptions

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Modeling Immigration Flows





OTL Population

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☐ Never authorized

Those that were never authorized to enter the Social Security area.

☐ Nonimmigrants

Those legally admitted for a limited period of time such as students, temporary worker, and exchange visitors.

☐ Overstayers

Those that were nonimmigrants, but overstayed their visas.



OTL Participation

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- Less likely to work in covered employment
- Much less likely to become insured for benefits



Projections – Background

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- Projections based on current law
 - ▣ Legislative proposals are an unknown
 - ▣ Need to estimate effect of legislative changes
- Assumptions set by Board of Trustees
 - ▣ Total annual levels



Projections – Assumptions

2014 Trustees Report, Intermediate Assumptions

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| | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| Net (total) immigrants ¹ : | ≈1,112,500 |
| Net legal immigrants ² : | 787,500 |
| Legal immigrants, new ² : | 600,000 |
| Legal immigrants, transfers ² : | 450,000 |
| Legal emigrants ² : | (262,500) |
| Net OTL immigrants ¹ : | ≈325,000 |
| OTL immigrants ² : | 1,400,000 |
| OTL emigrants, transfers ² : | (450,000) |
| OTL emigrants, leave ³ : | ≈(625,000) |

¹ Based on a combination of ultimate values and 75-year averages.

² Ultimate value.

³ 75-year average.



Projections – Assumptions

2014 Trustees Report, Low-Cost Assumptions

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| | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| Net (total) immigrants ¹ : | ≈1,425,000 |
| Net legal immigrants ² : | 1,000,000 |
| Legal immigrants, new ² : | 700,000 |
| Legal immigrants, transfers ² : | 550,000 |
| Legal emigrants ² : | (250,000) |
| Net OTL immigrants ¹ : | ≈425,000 |
| OTL immigrants ² : | 1,700,000 |
| OTL emigrants, transfers ² : | (550,000) |
| OTL emigrants, leave ³ : | ≈(725,000) |

¹ Based on a combination of ultimate values and 75-year averages.

² Ultimate value.

³ 75-year average.



Projections – Assumptions

2014 Trustees Report, High-Cost Assumptions

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| | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| Net (total) immigrants ¹ : | ≈845,000 |
| Net legal immigrants ² : | 595,000 |
| Legal immigrants, new ² : | 500,000 |
| Legal immigrants, transfers ² : | 350,000 |
| Legal emigrants ² : | (255,000) |
| Net OTL immigrants ¹ : | ≈250,000 |
| OTL immigrants ² : | 1,100,000 |
| OTL emigrants, transfers ² : | (350,000) |
| OTL emigrants, leave ³ : | ≈(500,000) |

¹ Based on a combination of ultimate values and 75-year averages.

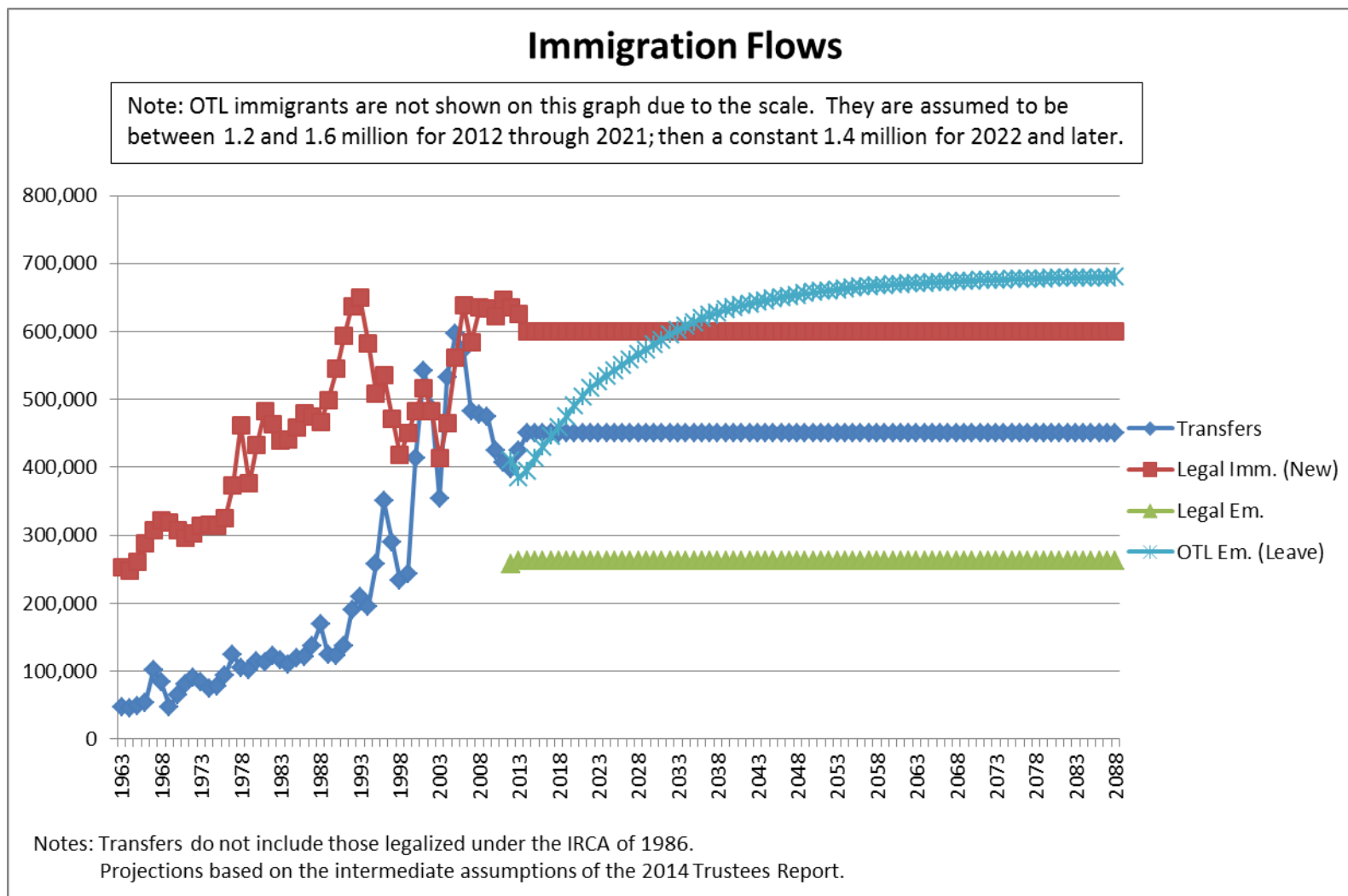
² Ultimate value.

³ 75-year average.

Projections – Assumptions Graph

2014 Trustees Report, Intermediate Assumptions

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Projections – Distributions

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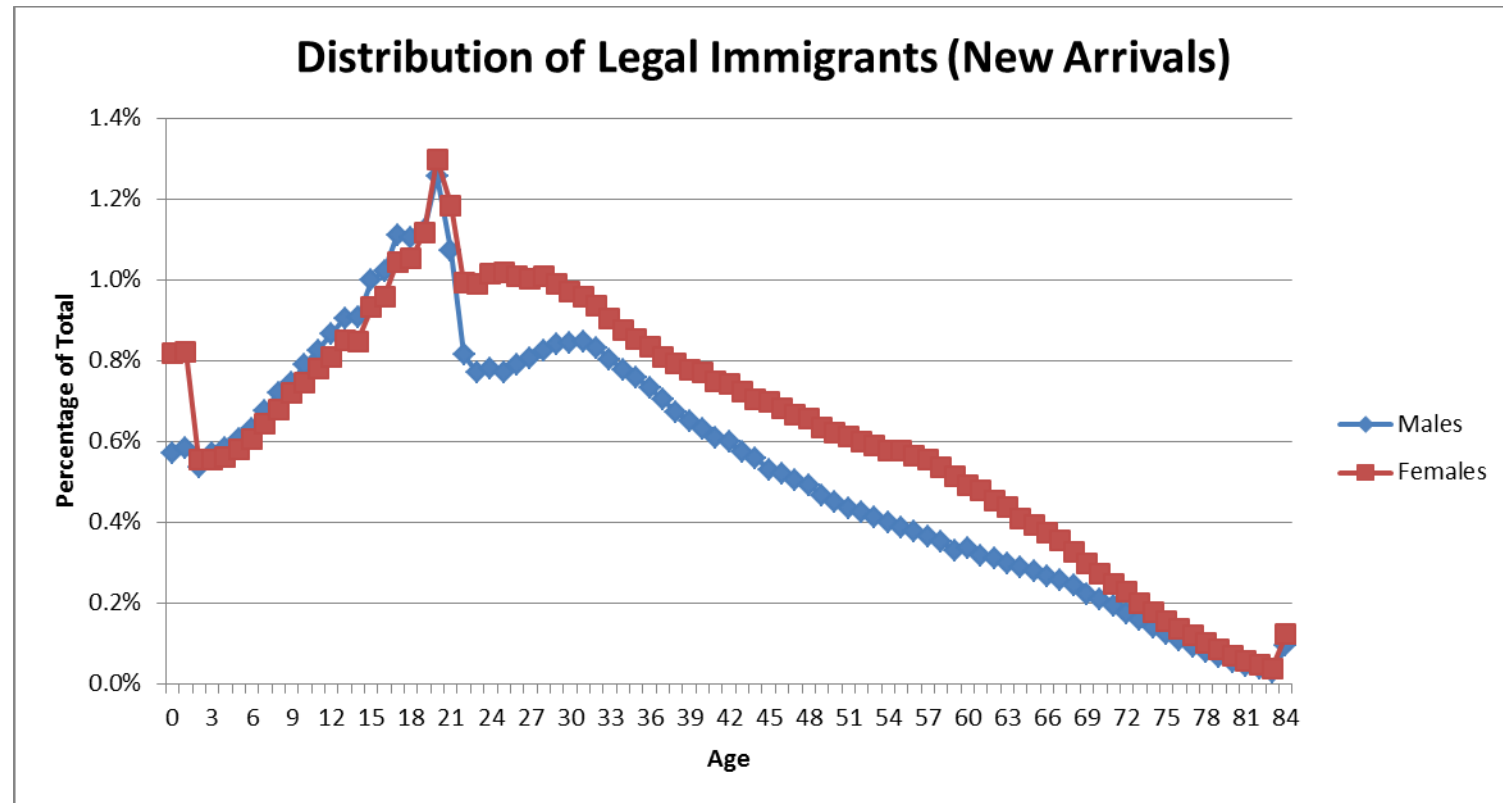
- All 5 immigration categories are projected by single year of age and sex.
- In general, a distribution is used to break out the assumed total.
- Annual distributions are constant for all categories, except OTL emigration.

Distribution – Legal Immigrants

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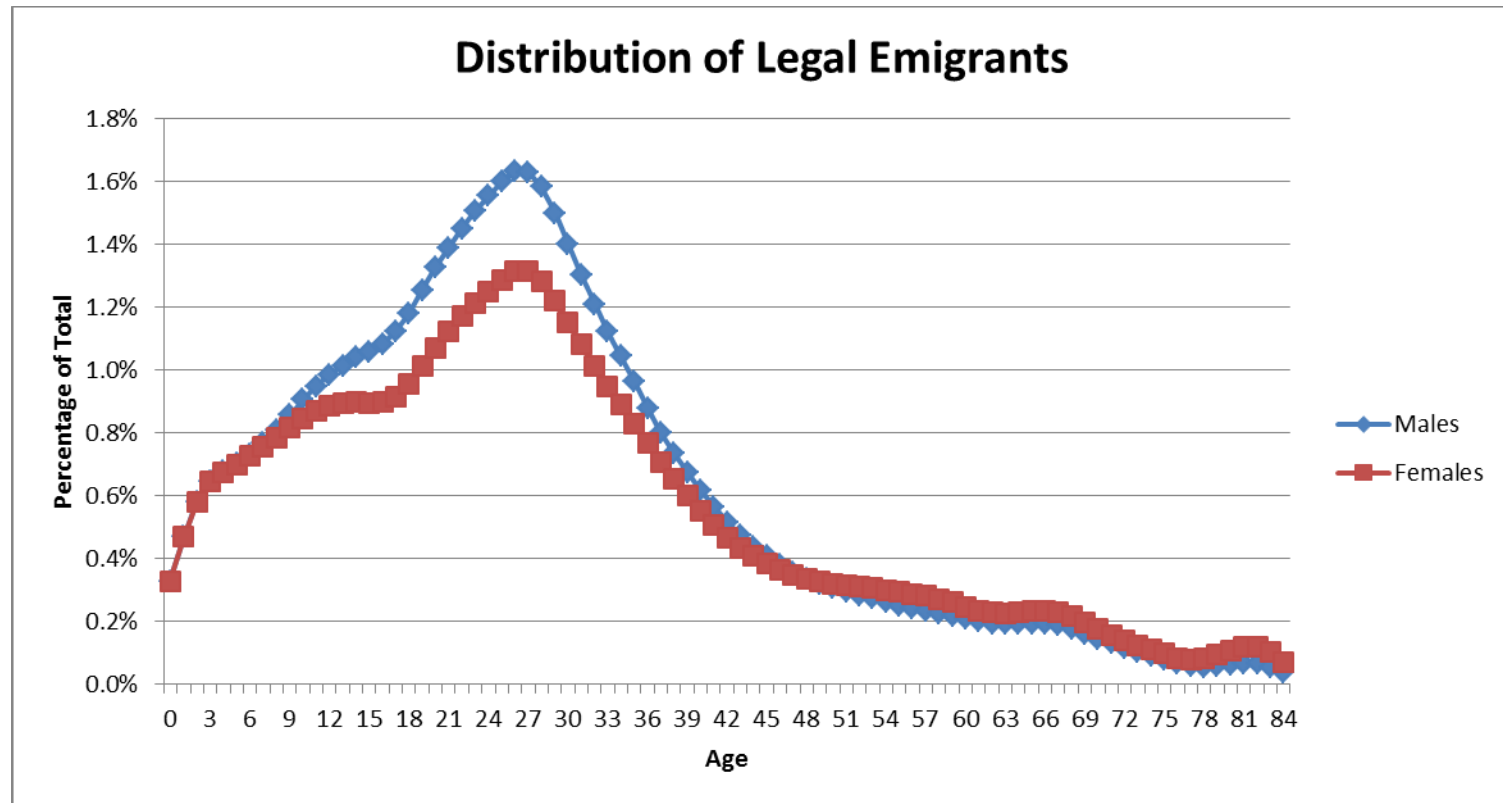


Based on an average of the most recent 10 years of data from DHS, by single year of age and sex.

Distribution – Legal Emigrants

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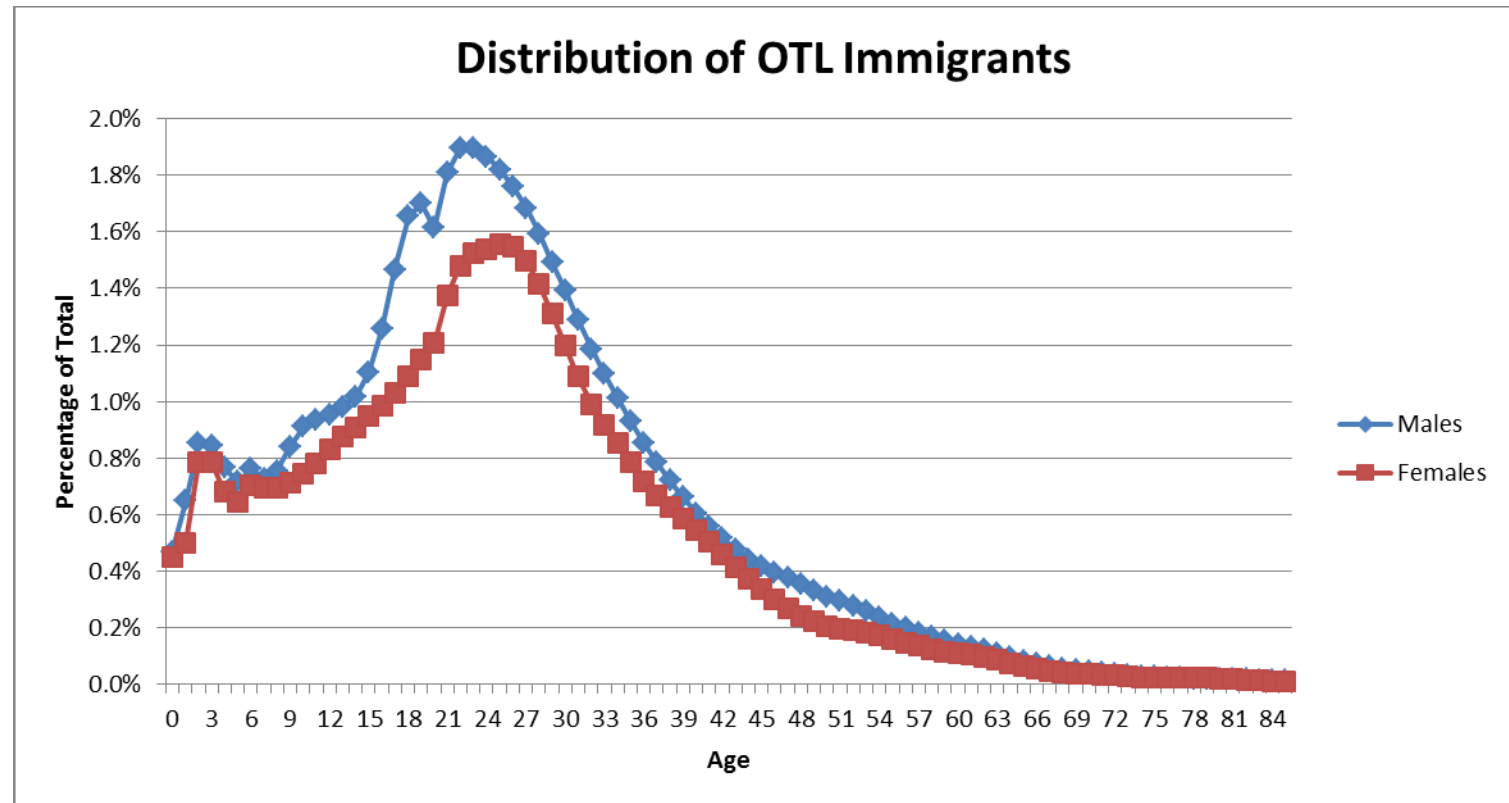


Based on estimates of foreign-born emigration between the 1980 and 1990 Census.

Distribution – OTL Immigrants

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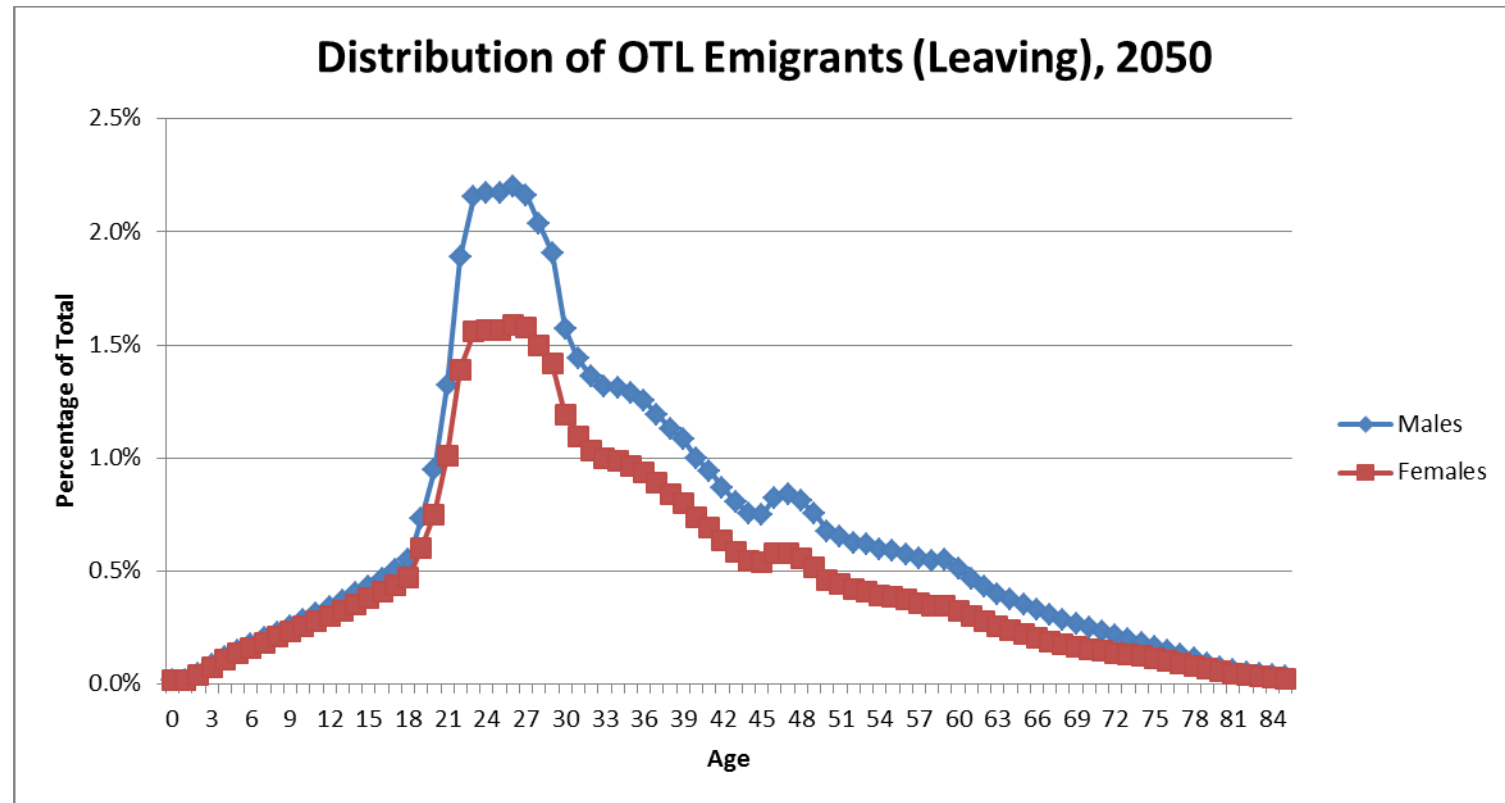


Based on a blend of unpublished estimates from Census (1975 – 1980) and the last 10 years of transfers data from DHS.

Distribution – OTL Emigrants

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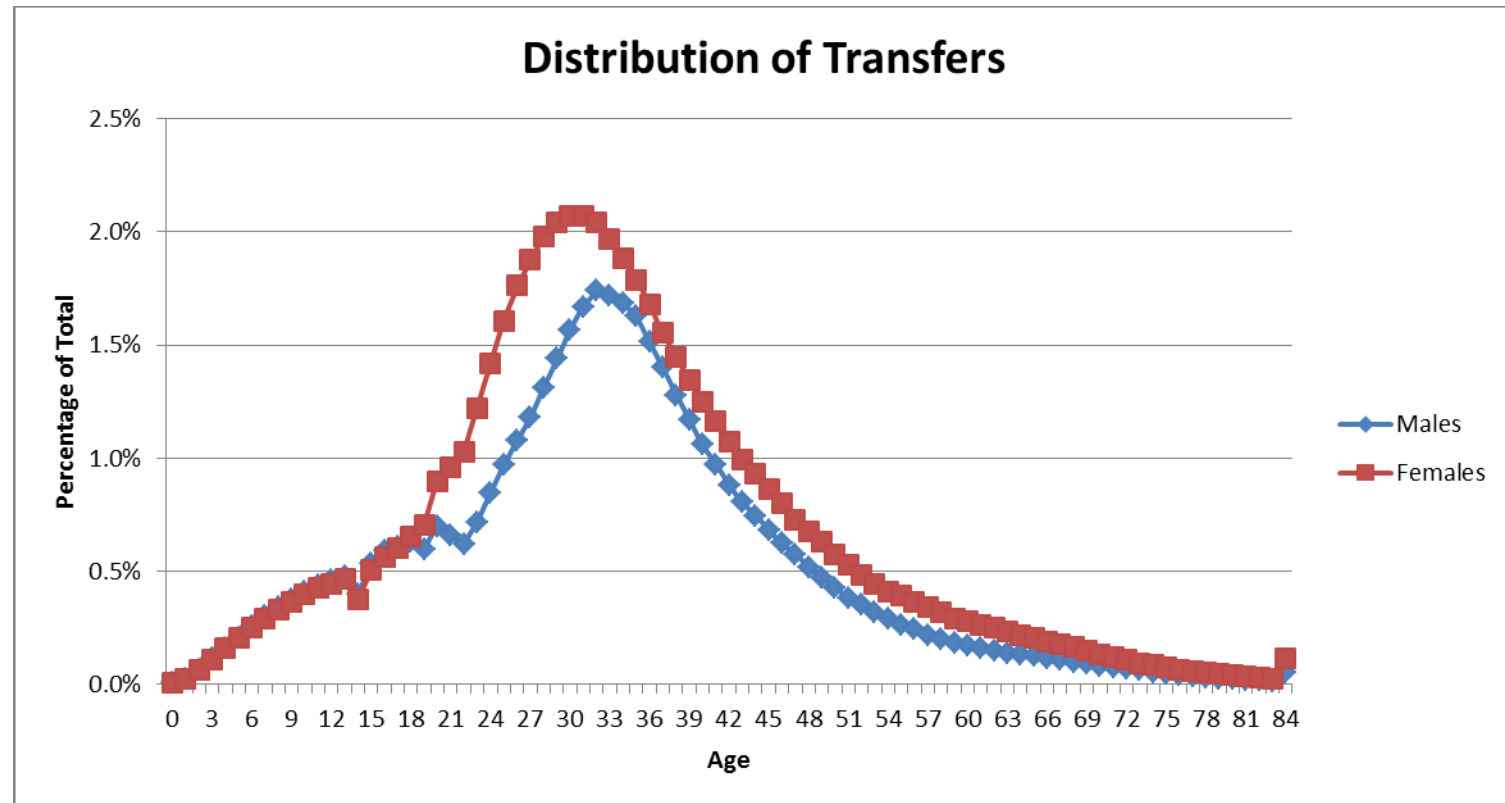


Annual distribution varies. It is based on exit rates applied to the OTL population (separate for the 3 types of OTL).

Distribution – Transfers

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Based on an average of the most recent 10 years of data from DHS, by single year of age and sex.

Results – Population Stocks

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Total population



Foreign-born population



OTL population

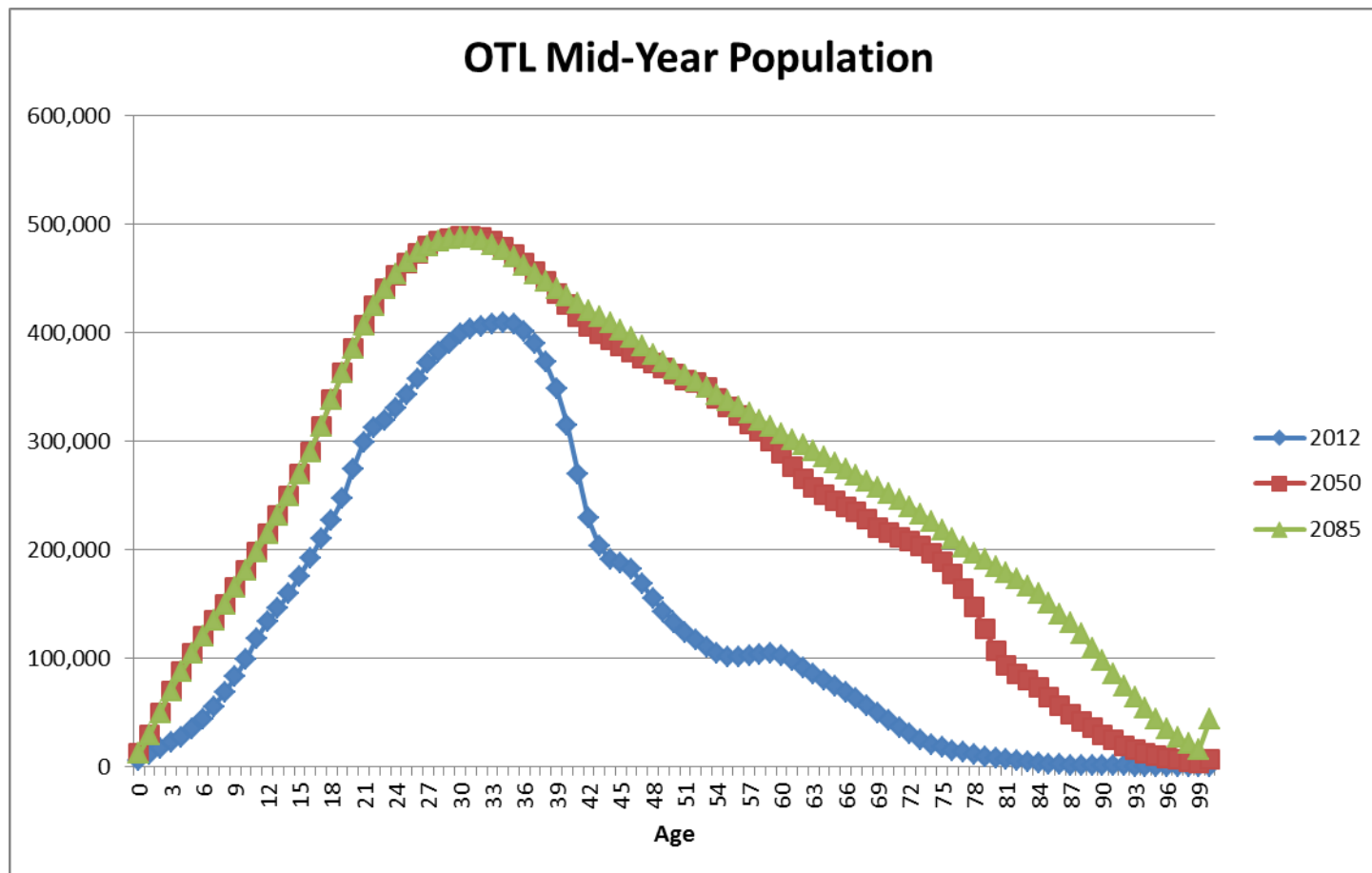


DACA population

Results – OTL Population

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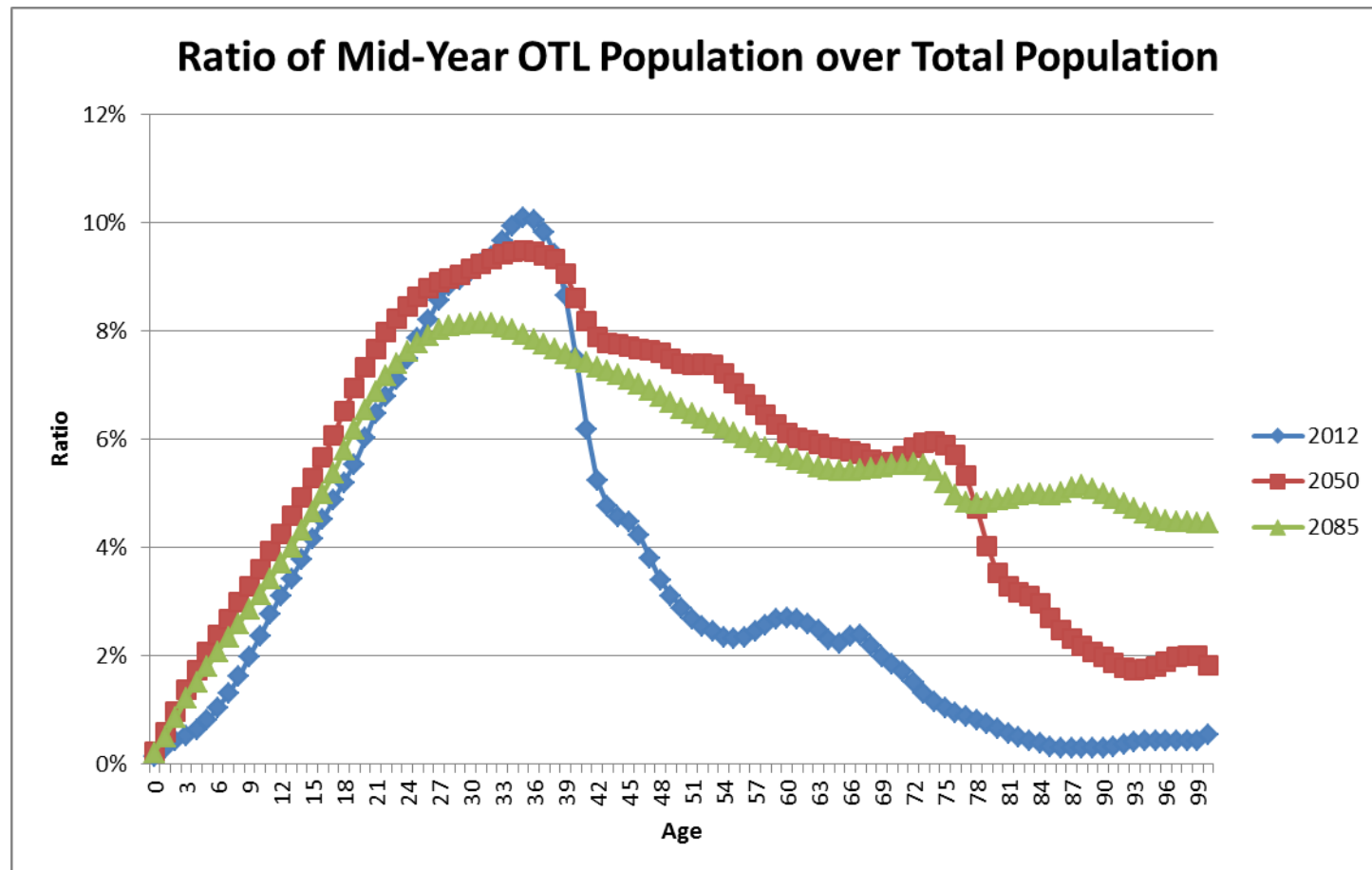
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Results – OTL Percentages

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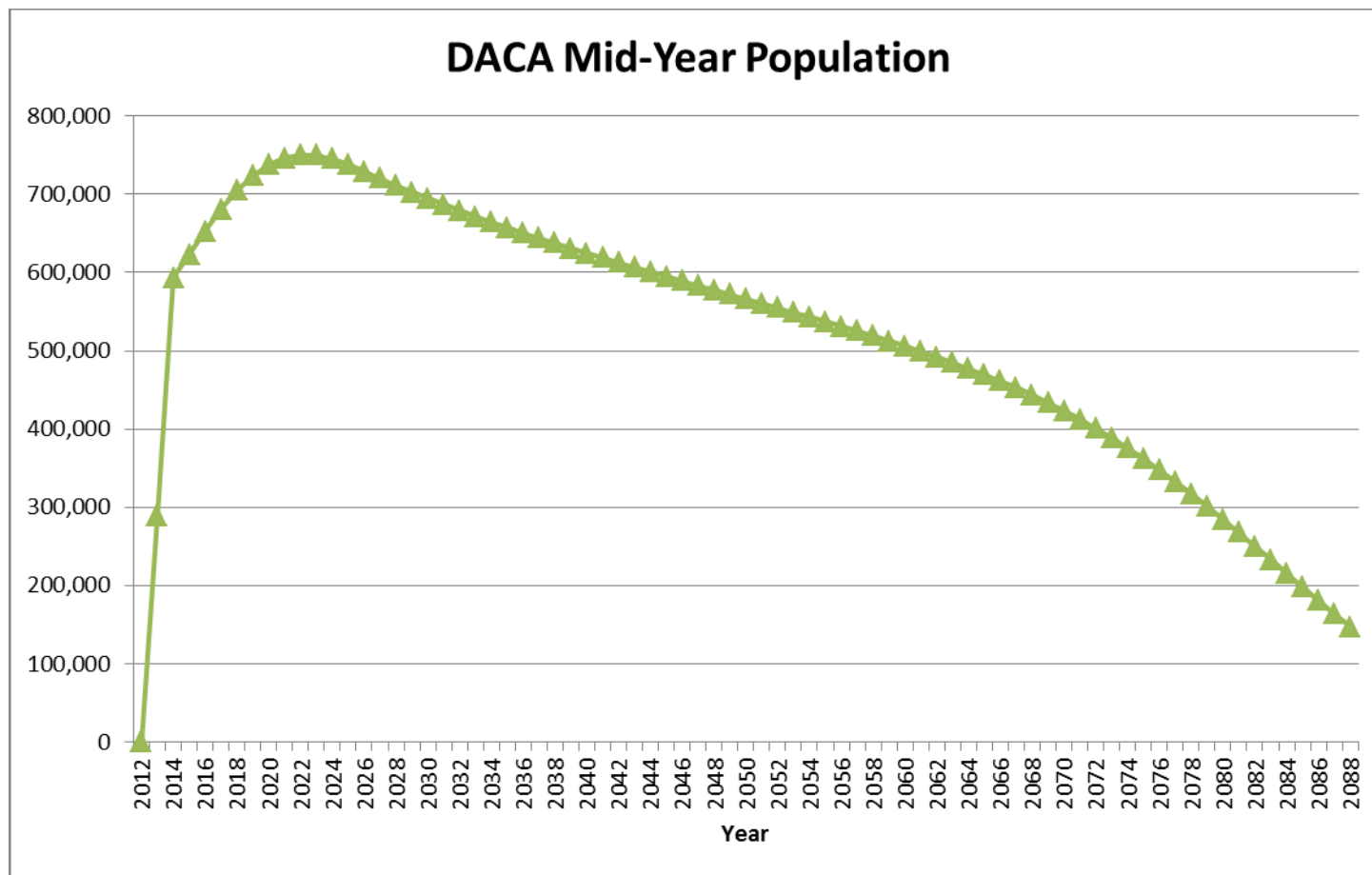
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Results – DACA

2014 Trustees Report, Intermediate Assumptions

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Further Information

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□ 2014 OASDI Trustees Report

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2014/tr2014.pdf>

□ Actuarial Note, Number 148

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/NOTES/pdf_notes/note148.pdf

□ Actuarial Note, Number 151

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/NOTES/pdf_notes/note151.pdf

□ Demographic Assumptions

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2014/2014_Long-Range_Demographic_Assumptions.pdf

□ Model Documentation

http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2014/documentation_2014.pdf

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